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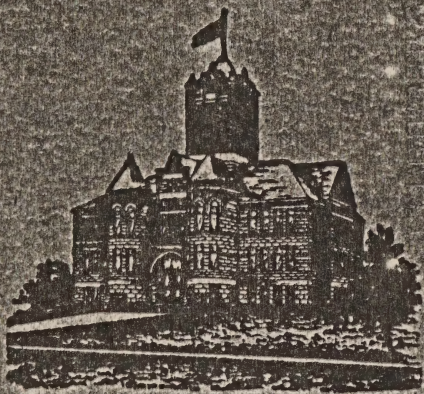


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Brief History of
Johnson County
IOWA

Up to 1870



Prepared by
COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE
Johnson County
Iowa City, Iowa

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HISTORY OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

GENEOLOGICAL AND STATISTICAL

Taken from 1870 Records on

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Johnson County, Iowa. County Auditor.

Brief history of Johnson County up to
1870. Iowa City, Iowa [n.d.]

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1. Johnson County, Iowa--History.

Recd May 3-1978

HISTORY OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL

Taken from 1870 Records on File in Auditor's Office

(Publishers' Note: The following brief sketch of Johnson County, from its earliest settlement, is mostly compiled from the "Annals of Iowa," from letters by Capt. F. M. Irish, of Iowa City, written in the year 1838, together with such items of interest as could be gleaned from old settlers—Col. S. C. Trowbridge and others greatly aiding in the compilation.)

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Phillip Clark and Eli Myers were the first white men who made claims with the intention of settling within the limits of Johnson County. They left their homes, in northern Indiana, in the Fall of 1836, and traveled on horseback through Illinois to Rock Island (then Stephenson's Landing), where they met with Mr. John Gilbert, who, learning that they sought a location, told them that he was an Indian trader, from the Iowa river, and that if they would accompany him he would show them a country that had all the advantages they could desire. They accepted his invitation, and found Mr. Gilbert's trading house located on what is now Pleasant Valley Township. Mr. Myer's claim, made at that time, now constitutes the farm bearing his name, while that of Mr. Clark is now known as the Morford or Birge farm. The next step of these pioneers was to erect a "Claim Cabin," on their respective tracts, and being assured by Mr. Gilbert, that he would protect their claims until the next season, they returned home. In 1837 Messrs. Myers and Clark reappeared at their prairie tenements—henceforward to be their homes—accompanied by a number of their neighbors, who selected claims in the same vicinity. Thus was a nucleus settlement and civilization formed, to pilot other adventurous and enterprising spirits to their well selected home. The following were among the arrivals in 1837:

May—Samuel Walker, William Wilson, S. C. Trowbridge, Henry Felkner, Pleasant Harris.

June—Wm. Sturgiss, George W. Hawkins, John Henry, Jacob Earhart, John Cane, and S. B. Mulholland.

August—A. D. Stephens, Samuel Bumgarner, Jonathan Harris, S. H. McCrory, and Joseph Walker.

Up to this time the red men had held undisputed possession of this beautiful region. A number of Indian towns were located upon the Iowa river, within what are now the limits of this county; the largest of these being about two miles below Iowa City, on the Clark farm, now owned by James McAllister, and contained about one thousand of the Musquaka or Fox Indians, governed by Poweshiek, an Indian of fair ability, and rather amiable disposition, for a savage. The war chief of this tribe was Kish-ke-kosh, of whom nothing very favorable can be said. These natives were generally well disposed towards their white neighbors, except when under the influence of whiskey, seldom gave trouble. Their graveyards were near their towns, and they gave great solicitude for the remains of their dead.

ORGANIZATION

Up to the spring of 1838 the Territory west of the Mississippi was attached to Wisconsin, for election and judicial purposes, and in May of this year, the Legislature of Wisconsin held its last session in Burlington, then the capital of that Territory. During this session news was received that by act of Congress Iowa was set off from Wisconsin. On June 12th, 1838, the act organizing Iowa Territory was passed, to take effect on July 3d, following. This measure was strongly urged upon Congress by the Hon. Geo. W. Jones, then a delegate from Wisconsin, and through his exertion and influence was passed. During the Autumn of 1838, Col. Samuel C. Trowbridge received from Gov. Henry Dodge a Sheriff's commission, authorizing him to organize Johnson County, named after Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky, at one time Vice President of the United States. In pursuance of this, Col. Trowbridge called an election on September 10th, 1838, whereat were chosen three Commissioners, Henry Felkner, Abner Wolcott, and Wm. Sturgiss. The names of the other officers are not ascertained. Robert Walker, by a commisison from Gov. Lucas, was the first "Justice of the Peace" in and for Johnson County. The first meeting of the County Commissioners was held at Phelps' Trading House, (on the Byington farm, where the building still stands). Soon after the above date, John Gilbert and Phillip Clark laid off a town, on what is now James McAllister's farm, called Napoleon, which was the first county seat, and where during this year, Judge Williams held the first Court in the county, in Gilbert's

Trading House, the Grand Jury being compelled to go out upon the prairie to conduct their deliberations, for want of a suitable room in the building serving as a temporary court house.

FIRST PERMANENT SITE OF STATE CAPITOL

The Territorial Legislature held its first session at Burlington, Nov. 1st, 1838, and one of the most important subjects that consumed the time of the legislature, and absorbed the attention of the different points desiring it, was the location of a permanent seat of government for the Territory. The Governor was in favor of a central point, north and south; and his views being adopted by a majority, Robert Ralston, of Des Moines, John Ronalds, of Louisa, and C. Swan, of Dubuque counties, were chosen Commissioners, and instructed to locate the Capitol in Johnson County, on the Iowa river. This was done early in May, 1839, and their acts recorded and sworn to, at Napoleon, then the county seat, before Robert Walker, the first Justice. This location was made in pursuance of an act of Congress, which donated a section of land to the Territory upon which to erect a seat of government, and which also gave \$20,000 to be used in erecting buildings. C. Swan was chosen by his colleagues as acting Commissioner to carry out the Congressional and Territorial enactments. Mr. Swan employed Col. Thos. Cox as principal, and Gen. Geo. Frierson as assistant surveyor, and L. Jackson as draughtsman. These, with a necessary corps of workmen, came on the ground the latter part of June, 1839, to survey the present site of Iowa City, which was at the time a perfect wilderness. The work of clearing away the dense growth of hazel brush and scrub oaks was prosecuted as far as the site of the Capitol.

JULY 4TH, 1839

When was celebrated, for the first time in this region, the anniversary of our independence. There gathered on that occasion a goodly number of ladies and gentlemen, many of whom had ridden fifteen or twenty miles to participate in the festivities. The scene presented was of great interest to one unaccustomed to the warm-hearted friendship always to be found existing between settlers of a new country. Their salutations were interspersed with attempts to tell where they lived: it would be, "Do you know a grove on such a stream? Well, we live in that;" or, "We're on a stream over the river called 'Old Man's Creek.'" Loca-

tions being ascertained by these dubious land marks, visits would be arranged, and thus society began to organize. At this first "4th of July" ever celebrated in Johnson County, Col. Cox, as president of the day, announced the toasts, regular and volunteer, each one of which was received with as clear a gush of patriotic fervor as ever trembled in Independence Hall.

The surveys being sufficiently advanced, the Commissioners gave notice that the first sale of lots would take place August 18th, 1839. This notice being published in eastern papers attracted the attention and presence of many capitalists, who began arriving upon the ground some days previous to the sale. Three days were consumed by it, and the proceeds amounted to \$75,000, property going off briskly and at high prices. Early in October, 1839, the second sale of lots took place, the proceeds of which amounted to \$30,000. Immigrants now began to pour in daily, many of them living in tents until cabins could be built. The fame of the new Capitol of the new Territory had spread through the East, and many came expecting to see a city that would rival the metropolitan centers of older States. The Territorial Legislature convened at Iowa City for the first time Dec. 6th, 1841.

DILLON'S FURROW

The location of the seat of government at Iowa City in 1839 attracted many travelers from the East and North to this point; and there being no roads, strangers found it difficult to keep the course they wished. In crossing our large prairies, they often became lost and wandered far out of their way. This was especially the case in traveling from Iowa City to Dubuque. To remedy this, the citizens employed Lyman Dillon, Esq. to plow a furrow between the two points, in as direct a line as practicable. Mr. Dillon accomplished his task by means of his breaking plow and five yoke of oxen, running a nearly unbroken furrow one hundred miles in length—said to be the longest on record, and served as a guide to travelers, and a well beaten road was made alongside Dillon's furrow. The furrow is often mentioned by the old settlers of Linn and Jones Counties, and was certainly a novel and rapid way of locating a road.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL

Johnson County lies between 41 degrees 24 min. and 41 deg. 51 min.

or north latitude. The longitude of its central meridian is about 91 deg. 33 min. west. It is bounded on the north by Linn County; on the east by the Counties of Cedar and Muscatine; south by Louisa and Washington Counties, and on the west by Iowa County. It contains at present, seventeen full Congressional townships and about six sections over, which is equivalent to six hundred and eighteen square miles, or three hundred ninety-five thousand five hundred and twenty acres.

The surface of the county presents a great variety; the south-west and western portions are perhaps the most rolling or undulating, while the north-east and eastern parts are the most regular. The bluff and broken lands lie principally along the streams. The Iowa and Cedar rivers are the prominent streams; the former passing east and north, through the County, has been navigated in times passed by some of the upper Mississippi boats as far as Iowa City, and quite recently by a boat built by Capt. Reninger, named Iowa City, in honor of the place where it was built. In addition to these beautiful rivers there are numerous streams and springs, which are ample to furnish water for stock growing, and make Johnson one of the best watered counties in the State. In timber, she is also not behind her neighbors: many fine belts and groves of woodland shadow her hills and valleys and fringe her streams. In short, the County with springs of pure water, its waving groves of timber, its dancing rivulets, its broad spread farms, its deep and slow flowing rivers, its tidy farm houses, and rapidly growing city, and flourishing villages, presents a landscape most beautiful to look upon. For a correct and extended idea of how abundantly Johnson County is supplied with water and timber, the reader is respectfully referred to the County and Township Maps in connection herewith, which delineate very distinctly these natural advantages.

GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

We have seen that a few families erected their cabins in Johnson County in 1837, this being the first actual settlement of the County, although Messrs. Clark and Myers located claims in 1836. In 1838, this little nucleus of settlement has increased to 237. August 13, 1841, we are referred to a vote for delegate of Congress, which took place at three different precincts. The candidates were A. C. Dodge, Democrat, and Alfred Rich, Whig. The whole number of votes polled at this election were 423, Mr. Dodge receiving a majority of 27 votes, the number of voters at this time being nearly as many as the total population of

1839. The inhabitants numbered, at the close of the year 1840, 1,504, while according to the State census report of 1867, the following rapid increase, both in population and wealth, is shown: Total white pop., 21,562; negro pop., 75; dwelling houses, 3,634; number of acres of land inclosed, 160,821; uninclosed, 227,680; bushels of wheat grown, 274,843; bushels of oats grown, 512,399; bushels of corn, 1,629,207; galls. of syrup from sorghum, 52,410; bushels of flax seed, 22,319; galls. of oil manufactured, 65,000; number of horses, 9,391; number of mules, 595; number of cattle, 25,706; number of hogs, 50,611; number of sheep, 47,686. In 1840, Samuel H. McCrory, as Postmaster, established a post office in a rough log building upon the first block north of Capitol Square, Iowa City, and a mail route was opened from Muscatine to Iowa City, with a contract to furnish a weekly mail. Before this date, the meagre mail had brought in a pocket handkerchief or the hat crown of whoever might be passing between the two points. At the present date, there are eighteen post offices in the County, and the most perfect and thoroughly appointed Railroad—C.R.I.&P.—lays down wagon loads of mail matter daily at Iowa City, from all parts of the globe; and from this point it is quickly distributed to smaller towns by post stage or rider, so that the farmer in the most distant part of the County can refresh himself with written or printed matter deposited daily in the little post office of his neighborhood.

The first paper was published by Wm. Crum and W. D. Bailey, at Iowa City, in 1840, at \$2.50 per annum. At the present time, there are four newspapers published in Johnson County, viz., *Weekly Tribune*, by N. H. Brainard; *Weekly Press*, by the Hon. J. P. Irish; *Daily and Weekly Tribune*, by W. A. Ballard, and the *Slovan Amerikansky*, by Barta Letowsky (printed at the office of the *Press*), with a combined circulation of 7,000 copies, most of which find readers within the County.

The first flouring mill in Johnson County was erected and run by David and Joshua Switzer, in 1841, and was located on Clear Creek. In this mill was ground the first flour and meal manufactured in the County. Since that time the milling enterprise of the County has kept pace with the wonderful increase of its population, and some gigantic schemes in the way of factories and mills have been successfully carried out. Among the many may be first mentioned the "Iowa City Manufacturing Company," organized in 1843, which, after combatting many obstacles, succeeded in throwing a dam across the Iowa river $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles

above the city, ten feet in height, which was the first structure of the kind west of the Mississippi, and is still one of the best water powers in the State, the fall having been increased to 12 feet. Upon this dam was erected a large flouring mill by Ezekiel Clark, he having purchased said water power from the company above mentioned, and in 1850 was put into active operations. This mill was driven day and night, and furnished the greater portion of the flour for the inhabitants of North-Western Iowa, and even Southern Minnesota. This fine water power is now owned by M. T. Close and Bro., who have erected a paper mill, the present capacity of which is one ton of paper per day, and furnish power for driving the machinery of a large woolen mill. There are other and numerous fine mills driven by water and steam, which, however, would render this brief sketch too voluminous to mention each particularly; but suffice it to state that mention of the "Brick Mill," McConnell & Rogers, Props., and the frame mill of Miller & Kirkwood, at Coralville, will give something of an idea of this branch of industrial enterprise in Johnson County. The former carries four run of stone, four feet burrs, and in 1867 ground 33,343 bu. wheat, 2,000 bu. rye, 6,000 bu. corn; corn shelled and shipped, 1,357 bu.; wheat shipped, 1,100 bu.; flour shipped, 2,252 bbls. The latter has a capacity of 1,000 bu. per day, and is one of the best flouring mills in the County. A view of this fine mill is given in this work, and is a fair representation. Good roads furnish excellent facilities for reaching it. There are now in operation in this County, eight flouring mills, and two woolen mills, one at Coralville with a capacity of 10,000 yards per month, and one on Clear Creek, adapted mostly to custom work. In addition to the above, and most prominent among the manufacturing interests, is the oil factory of M. T. Close & Co., for the manufacture of linseed and lard oils. The establishment commenced operations in 1861, in which year 5,700 bu. of flax seed were worked; in 1862, 12,500 bu.; in 1863, 21,200 bu.; in 1864, 35,500 bu.; in 1865, 37,750 bu.; in 1866, 40,260 bu.; in 1867, 61,000 bu.; in 1868, 70,000 bu.; in 1869, only 50,000 bu., owing to the failure of the crop. The present year 1870, the capacity of this mill has been doubled, and 100,000 bu. of flax seed will be worked. Lard oil manufactured from 1861 to 1867, 1,525 bbls. Capacity of mill, 1,000 galls. of linseed and 500 galls. of lard oil per day.

The first School in Johnson County was established by Jesse Berry, in 1840, in a small frame building, situated on College Street, Iowa City. In 1869, there were 136 schools, and 129 school buildings; 9 of

brick, 2 of stone, 115 frame, and three of logs, with an average attendance of 6,843 pupils, and 117 teachers. In addition to this, there are 7 private schools and 2 colleges. The average cost of tuition per pupil was 35 cents per week, and \$28,739.84 was paid for instruction in the county schools. Value of school buildings, \$112,478.00. By reference to the Township Map, the number of school buildings in each township can be readily ascertained. In addition to the public schools, the University, Institutes for the blind and deaf and dumb, at Iowa City are of importance, and are described in the history of Iowa City. As an example of the standard of scholarship in the county at the present time, it is stated in the biennial report of Superintendent of Public Instruction for 1869, that five Premium certificates were awarded applicants, for qualifications as school teachers, and 119 certificates of first grade, with none in second, while in most counties in the State the second grade is more or less represented; in some cases as many as 111 of this grade are issued.

The first Church in Johnson County was erected by the Protestant Methodist Association of Iowa City in 1844, the corner stone being laid May 13th, by the Rev. John Libby, His Excellency, Gov. Lucas assisting in the ceremony. At the present date there are thirteen different religious societies, and 35 church edifices within the limits of the county. Among the most costly buildings for religious worship, may be mentioned the Congregational Church and St. Mary's of the Visitation. The former, although not as expensive as the latter, is considered one of the most complete and beautiful in the State. It cost \$29,000. Its dimensions are 95x56, with 150 feet spire. The latter is the second in the State in size and expense—its cost being estimated, when complete, with its magnificent organ and furniture—\$70,000. It is 140 by 65 feet on the ground, with a spire 190 feet, and is 52 feet inside, from floor to ceiling. It will accommodate 3,000 people, and 2,200 persons attend service, on an average, each Sabbath. Six thousand people are estimated as assembling for worship, on the Lord's day, in the cities, villages and rural districts of Johnson County at the present time.

GEOLOGICAL

The strata underlying this County are Devonian, and are referred to the age of the Hamilton group of New York. They consist mainly of limestone, with some calcareous shades. Possibly the subcarboniferous rocks reach the south-west corner, but no exposures of it are known within the County. A few limited outlines of coal measure strata are

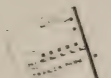
known to rest upon the Devonian strata at several points. The rocks abound in rare specimens of fossil shells and corals, and furnish the best of building materials. On the top of some of the highest hills are to be seen the marks of man's habitation many ages since, those rounded mounds of earth disposed in rows and circles, and attributed to the "mound builders." At what time they were constructed must remain a matter of speculation; but certain it is that they were built before the growth of the present forests, for the largest trees are found growing on the tops and sides of the mounds. Along the river, and principally along the Turkey and Rapid Creeks, are to be seen the marks of a more ancient power than the "mound builders"; it is that of old Titan himself, or, if you please, the upheaval power. The heavy beds of rock are thrown upward and broken through, forming bluffs, crags and precipices, enchanting and picturesque in their appearance.

RAILROADS

We have seen that in 1839 Lyman Dillon, Esq., was employed to plow a furrow from Iowa City to Dubuque, a distance of 100 miles, and that along the line of Dillon's furrow a road became established, which served the citizens of Johnson County as a line of communication with outside civilization. At the present time the County is penetrated east and west, north and south, by the three railroads, the C.R.I.&P.B., C. R. & M. and Iowa Central, the two latter not completed. Of the former it can truthfully be said, and it is generally conceded, to be the most perfect line in the State. It passes through the heart and center of the County. By this road the citizens of Johnson County can embark at Iowa City, and in an incredibly short time make an "all rail" trip to either great oceans, while for winter tours to the extreme South, or summer tours to the cooling climate of Minnesota, the Iowa Central passing North and South through the County, furnishes a most direct and speedy route. Work on the former road was commenced in 1853 at Davenport, and progressed steadily until the close of 1855, when it was rapidly approaching Iowa City. The completion of the track to this point was made the occasion of a grand celebration by the citizens of that city, and invitations were extended to the citizens of Chicago, Rock Island and intermediate points. It had been decided that on New Year's day the laying of the rails to the depot grounds should be completed, and to accomplish this, the citizens turned out in heavy force to assist in the work; and though the weather was most inclement, they succeeded, by

IOWA

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south-west of Iowa City, and are occupied by suitable buildings for floral exhibitions, fruits, &c., and stables and stalls for the accommodation of stock on exhibition, and handling horses during training trials of speed; a fine half mile track is connected with the grounds for this purpose. Here the Iowa State Fair was held in the years 1860 and 1861.

STATISTICAL

The following is from the census of 1868-69, full and complete as far as the headings are used, and will enable the reader to draw his own comparison with the present, past and future of Johnson County, and to make an imaginary estimate of what she may become.

1869

Population.—Number of families, 4,140; Grand total, 23,948. Number entitled to vote, 4,427.

1868

Number acres of land inclosed, 205,788; in cultivation, 158,076. No. acres spring wheat, 38,149; winter wheat, 463. No acres corn, 49,117; oats, 16,586; buckwheat, 334; barley, 369; rye, 1,308; potatoes, 1,071; onions, 9; tame grass, 17,079; flax, 5,604; sorghum, 421; hops, 5. No. acres timber planted, 200. Bushels spring wheat, 575,904; winter wheat, 9,267. Bushels corn, 2,902,278; bushels oats, 495,217; bushels buckwheat, 3,554; barley, 8,020; rye, 23,229; potatoes, 76,192; onions, 690; flax, 33,773; apples, 12,532. No. lbs. grapes, 26,015; gallons sorghum, 51,591; No. lbs. honey, 7,692; of butter, 425,991; of cheese, 28,405; of wool, 119,162. No. tons hay from tame grass, 25,478; from wild grasses, 17,388. No. lbs. hops, 430. Value of farm produce, \$1,591,822. Value of stock sold, \$597,329. Value of agricultural implements, machinery and wagons, \$275,285. Value of manufactures, \$219,753.

1869

Number of rods of hedging, 60,464. No. fruit trees bearing, 43,534; not in bearing, 87,293; No. of grapevines in bearing, 28,278; not in bearing, 73,341; No. of horses, 11,261; cattle, 28,691; hogs, 40,181; sheep, 29,711; mules and asses, 667; milch cows, 8,675; work oxen, 427; dogs, 3,507; hives of bees, 1,947. Agricultural products, horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, &c., carried eastward from several stations of Johnson County during the year: No. of horses, 4; cattle, 1,556; hogs, 17,818; sheep,

300; lbs. of wool, 30,609; lbs. dressed hogs, 995,357; lbs. lard and pork, 60,651; lbs. wheat, 10,310,928; lbs. corn, 1,969,613; lbs. of other grains, 3,202,021; lbs. other agricultural products, 2,350; animal products not otherwise specified, 417,675 lbs.; Bbls. flour, 5,600.

It must be remembered that the above is a showing of shipments for the year ending April 30, 1869, being hardly an average year in the way of small grains, but speaks fairly when compared with other counties, and in average valuation of land per acre, ranks the sixth county in the State.

IOWA CITY

Having been so intimately connected with nearly all the important events that have transpired in Johnson County, and her history being so interwoven with that of the County in the preceding sketch, that a separate detailed record is hardly necessary; but as a matter of convenience, a condensed account of the most important events connected with its early and present history will be given.

Matthew Ten Eyck has credit of being the first white man who settled with his family in Iowa City, and which must have been in the year 1839, as the commissioners in charge of the survey of Iowa City for the Territorial seat of government found board at Mr. Ten Eyck's, whose cabin then stood on the present site of Mr. Hobart's residence. The first regularly built house was erected by the above named, on the corner of Iowa Avenue and Dubuque streets. It was a solid hewn timber, two stories high, and quite roomy. It was burned down, after having been occupied as a residence, tavern and boarding house for some twenty years. The first frame house was built by Wesley Jones, on the present site of the Powell block, south of University Square, in which was stored and sold the first stock of goods brought to this city. The first brick building was erected by Mr. Bostwick, and the first regular hotel was built and conducted by Walter Butler. These buildings were all erected in 1839, which seems to have been an important year for the young city, as it was during this year that it was surveyed and platted, and lots sold to the amount of \$105,000.00. No town ever had a more rapid and substantial growth, or became as notorious, in so short a time as did Iowa City. It was here, and for the first time in this section of country, that the Fourth of July was celebrated as in the New England States; and it is probable that no other celebration was or will be like unto it. The occasion was made one of more interests owing to the work

of the surveying party, which had progressed to the very site of the contemplated Capitol on this auspicious day. Many anecdotes might be told and pleasant memories discussed in connection with the celebration, but only the more substantial matter can be mentioned here. Jonathan Harris, occupying the old "Gilbert trading house," four miles distant, furnished the dinner—said to have been a feast—and Col. Cox presided at the table, Gen. John Frierson being the "orator of the day." An oak tree trimmed of its branches, answered as a flag staff, and from this, by direction of Chauncey Swazy, the stars and stripes were unfurled for the first time in Johnson County. To-day, should occasion require it, the bright banner would float from every mansion, and the throng impress with its numbered thousands and dazzle with its splendor; yet no more brave or loyal hearts could be found than among the pioneer settlers of Johnson County on the 4th of July, 1839.

The first white child born in the city was Hannah Ten Eyck.

POPULATION AND WEALTH

According to the census of 1869, the total population of Iowa City was 6,583; No. entitled to vote, 1,152; No. dwelling houses, 1,051; assessed valuation of real property, \$862,690.00.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

There are four city schools in operation, the value of the buildings being estimated at \$55,000.00; average number of pupils in attendance, 524; cost of tuition per annum, \$13.23; teachers' monthly compensation, \$949.11; the highest monthly salary being \$111.11, and the lowest \$30.00.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

was established at Iowa City by act of Feb. 25, 1847, granting therefor the use of the Capitol buildings and grounds, and donating for its support the two townships of land granted to the State by the general government for University purposes, by act of Congress, July 20th, 1840. Its first session was opened in Sept., 1855, but owing to the immature condition of its finances, it was closed, excepting the Normal Department, in the spring of 1858. It was reorganized in 1860, its first term opening Sept. 19th, and from this point its history should date; and it has steadily increased the number of its students until at the close of the collegiate year 1867-68, its membership reached 450. From the report of the Board of Trustees to the General Assembly, Jan. 10th, 1870, the

following quotations are made: "This University receives its endowment from the general and State governments, and is under State control, being an integral part of a liberal system of education, of which the common school is the foundation. Its advantages are for all, without distinction, who may be prepared to profit by them. Starting out at the commencement of the most gloomy period in the history of our country, it has not only survived the trials incident to similar institutions during the great rebellion, but has constantly gathered strength and won confidence of the friends of a thorough classical and scientific education, until at present it stands recognized as affording facilities for literary and scientific culture unsurpassed in the West, and in many respects fully equal to the best Universities in the Eastern States. Four Departments are in operation—the Collegiate, Normal, Law and Medical.

FACULTY AND INSTRUCTORS OF THE COLLEGIATE DEPARTMENT—James Black, D. D., President; Nathan R. Leonard, A. M.; Gustavus Hinrichs, C. P.; Charles A. Eggert, A. M.; Amos N. Currier, A. M.; Charles A. White, A. M., M. D.; Stephen N. Fellows, A. M.; Wm. C. Preston, B. Ph.; C. L. Pinkham, A. B.; Ellen C. Rich, A. M.; Celia A. Currier, B. S.

LAW DEPARTMENT—Rev. Jas. Black, D. D., President of University; Hon. Wm. G. Hammond, A. M., Principal of the Department and University Prof. of Law; Hon. Geo. G. Wright, LL.D., Prof. of Constitutional, Criminal and Real Property Law; Hon. Chester C. Cole, Prof. of Commercial Law and the Law of Persons and Personal Rights; Hon. John F. Dillon, LL.D., Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT—Rev. James Black, D. D., President of the University; John F. Dillon, A. M., M. D., LL.D., Davenport, Prof. of Medical Jurisprudence; Gustavus Hinrichs, C. P., Iowa City, Prof. of Chemistry and Toxicology; W. F. Peck, M. D., Davenport, Prof. of Surgery; P. J. Farnsworth, M. D., Clinton, Prof. of Materia Medica; J. H. Boucher, M. D., Iowa City, Prof. of Anatomy.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN ATTENDANCE—Collegiate Department, 139; Normal Department, 150; Introductory Class, 102; Law Department, 25; total 416.

The Medical Department, now already organized, will open for the admission of the students on the 15th of Sept. present year. It is claimed that no Medical Institute will be better prepared to impart a more complete and satisfactory course of instruction than will the Medical De-

partment of the Iowa State University. The University buildings are three in number, the Central Hall being 120 by 60 feet and two stories in height; the South Hall, 108 by 45 feet and two stories in height, and the North Hall, 61 by 90 feet and two stories in height. These buildings are pleasantly located on the spacious grounds granted by the State, and sufficiently elevated to overlook the river; and from the cupola of the Central Hall a most beautiful view of the city and surrounding country can be had. It is estimated that by the sale of lands not yet disposed of, the cash endowment will be increased to \$251,000.00.

DEAF AND DUMB ASYLUM

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An act to establish a State Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Iowa City, was approved Jan. 24th, and made valid by publication Jan. 31, 1855. The formal organization and opening of the Institution took place on 3rd of Feb. with twenty pupils. This charitable Institution was hastened into operation by Mr. Ijams, who had been conducting a school for the deaf mutes at Iowa City as a private enterprise, and who took charge of this Institution as its Superintendent for some years after its organization. Its present able Superintendent is Prof. Benjamin Talbot. Two hundred and forty-five pupils have received instruction at this Institute. There are at the present time about seventy-five pupils receiving its direct benefits. The annual expense of its management with this number of pupils is about \$12,000.00. It is impossible in the limited space allowed here to give credit justly due this Institution for the great good accomplished. It is open to all proper subjects between the ages of ten and twenty-five. Applicants must be free from immorality and from contagious and offensive diseases; also sound of mind. Such persons are entitled to receive their board and instruction, at the expense of the Institution, for a period of seven years. Pupils from other States are charged \$150.00 per annum. This Institution is soon to be removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where it is hoped it may meet with the same encouragement and hospitable treatment as it has from citizens of Iowa City.

INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

Was established at Iowa City Jan. 10, 1853, with Samuel Bacon as Principal. The Legislature appropriated \$3,000.00 per annum for its support, to which was added \$25.00 admission fee for each pupil. By the judicious management of Mr. Bacon, a surplus of \$5,000.00 was depos-

ited in the treasury at the time of his relinquishing the charge of the Institution. It was removed to Vinton, Iowa, in 1862.

ST. AGATHA'S SEMINARY

For the education of young ladies, was organized in 1861, and is controlled by the Catholic Church and conducted by the sisters of Charity. It is a commodious building, and the school carefully and ably managed. There are four hundred pupils in attendance at present.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Was organized by Act of the Legislature, approved Jan. 28, 1857, and its object, the collecting, embodying, arranging and preserving in an authentic form, a library of books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, paintings, statuary and other materials illustrative of the state of the history of Iowa; to rescue from oblivion the memory of its early pioneers, to obtain and preserve varieties of their exploits, perils and hardy adventures; to secure facts and statements relative to the history, genius and progress, or decay of our Indian tribes; to exhibit faithfully the antiquities, past and present resources of Iowa. \$250.00 was at first annually appropriated to aid this society, but by subsequent act this amount was increased to \$500.00. In 1868-69, special appropriation of \$3,500.00 was made to support the workings of this society. It has now on hand 2,053 bound volumes; 3,652 unbound books and pamphlets, and 3,205 miscellaneous books and pamphlets for exchange. Total books and pamphlets on hand Dec. 1, 1869, 8,910. Also, in relics and articles of historic value, with zoological and mineralogical specimens, battle flags, etc., there are 4,003. The publications of this society are interesting not only to citizens of Iowa who may have participated in many of the scenes described in its annals, but to those of other States, and especially to those who may read graphic descriptions of the deeds of Iowa soldiers with a proud remembrance that they were comrades of those gallant boys on many a contested field.

The following are the officers of the society, viz.: President, Prof. Wm. G. Hammond; Vice Presidents, Rev. Richard L. Ganter, Hon. Geo. G. Wright, Hon. Ezekiel Clark, Rev. William Emonds, Rev. James Black, D. D.; Recording Secretary, Wm. Cullen Gaston; Corresponding Secretary, Frederick Lloyd, M. D.; Treasurer, H. S. Welton; Librarian, Silas Foster. Board of Curators as follows: M. W. Davies, Wm. Vogt, M. D., F. H. Lee, Hon. John P. Irish, S. E. Paine, Robert Hutchinson, Geo. W. Dodder, Archibald C. Younkin, N. H. Brainard,

Thomas M. Banbury, Wm. Crum, Henry Murray, M. D., Moses Bloom, Thos. Hughes, J. H. Boucher, M. D., Samuel C. Trowbridge, Geo. G. Cornell, Charles Lewis.

RELIGIOUS

There are thirteen religious denominations in Iowa City, all of which have church edifices excepting two—two of the most expensive church buildings—the Congregational and Catholic—have already been mentioned. It is estimated that four thousand people worship at the various appointed places each Sabbath—this includes those coming from the adjacent country to attend the Catholic and other churches.

MANUFACTURING

The manufacturing and milling industry have been fairly represented by the Oil factory of M. T. Close & Co., and the brick Flouring Mill described in the history of the county.

FREE MASONS

The different Lodges of Free Masonry in Iowa City are Iowa City Lodge No. 4, chartered January 8, 1844. Dr. Wm. Reynolds was the first W. M., Dr. S. M. Ballard the first S. W., Geo. S. Hampton the first J. W.

Zion Lodge, No. 31, chartered June 2, 1852. Geo. W. McCleary first W. M., Geo. D. Crosthwaite first S. W., James P. Carlton first J. W.

Iowa City R. A. Chapter, No. 2, chartered June 8, 1864.

Palestine Commandery Knights Templar, No. 2, chartered September 15, 1856. J. R. Hartsock, first E. C., Kimball Porter first Gen., D. S. Warren first Capt. Gen. Following in the train of these workers for good amid the unfortunates of earth, yet not inferior to them in ennobling influences, comes the fraternity of

I. O. O. F.

Whose members are found in the following Lodges: Koskiusko Lodge No. 6, chartered September 14, 1846. Charter members, S. M. Ballard, Wm. Patterson, Abraham H. Palmer, M. L. Morris, J. R. Hartsock, Thomas Hughes, G. W. McCleary, E. Lindsey.

Eureka Lodge No. 44. Chartered March 7, 1853.

Teutonia Lodge, No. 129 (German). Chartered February 29, 1860.

All of the above named Lodges are in full membership and in flourishing condition.

In conclusion, it is only just to say that no city in Iowa has been more highly honored than Iowa City. For years, the seat of State Government, and the birthplace of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institutes, and permanent location of the Iowa University and State Historical Society, she will doubtless always retain her share of State favors. Her City charter was granted by the General Assembly Jan. 25, 1853. No city of the State of equal size can boast a greater number of fine mansions; and College Avenue, with its shaded and attractive residences, affords a pleasant drive, which will compare favorably with more pretentious cities. Many distinguished men and statesmen have here established a home, and society is far in advance of Western cities in general.

FINAL

The history of Johnson County, as here given, is not intended to be an elaborate and extended account of events that have taken place since its settlement, and very little could be said of the men who enacted prominent parts in the development of her resources, without making this sketch more detailed than desirable; but in the main it is hoped that what has been recorded here will be found in accordance with the notes and remembrances of those who are termed "Old Settlers," and in connection with the map so accurately drawn, trust that the work will meet with the approval of the citizens generally.

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